

March 27, 2004

STATEMENT FROM DON NICKLES and JIM NUSSLE

RE: Upcoming House-Senate Budget Conference

Senate Budget Chairman Don Nickles and House Budget Chairman Jim Nussle today issued the following statement at the conclusion of an informal planning meeting:

“There’s no question we have some challenges, but we are looking forward to working together on a budget that reflects our nation’s priorities: defending America at home and abroad, growing the economy and creating jobs, and restoring fiscal responsibility. At the end of the day, we both have to take something back to our respective chambers that can pass.

“Our shared goal is to restore the integrity and relevance of the congressional budget process. We absolutely must get a budget resolution across the finish line. We must complete the budget by the statutory deadline of April 15.”

The Senate Wednesday appointed the following conferees: Nickles, Sen. Pete Domenici, Sen. Chuck Grassley, Sen. Judd Gregg, Sen. Kent Conrad, Sen. Fritz Hollings and Sen. Paul Sarbanes.

The House will receive the Senate budget documents early next week and will appoint conferees and make a motion to go to conference at that time.